

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 XMB-02 AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00 /023 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3578

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 2415

FOR MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, ELTN, NI

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: NIGERIAN RAILROAD DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) STATE 29116; (B) ROME 3078

1. UNABLE AS YET CONTACT NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORP. (NRC) TO ASCERTAIN PROJECT STATUS. UNDERSTAND FROM TAMS RPT TAMS STANLEY GLYNN, HOWEVER, THAT ITALCONSULT HAS BEEN WORKING WITH NRC THIS PROJECT SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER AND WOULD BE RETAINED TO REVIEW DESIGN -CONSTRUCT PROPOSALS WHILE TAMS WOULD GET JOB OF REVIEWING DESIGNS AND OVERSEEING CONSTRUCTION OF EITHER PART OR ALL OR PROJECT. TAMS WAS ALSO ASKED TO PROVIDE ON IN-HOUSE ADVISOR TO NRC. GLYNN RETURNED NEW YORK PRIOR COUP ATTEMPT AND PROBABLY STILL THERE ALTHOUGH HE INTENDED RETURN LAGOS FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH (AIRPORT REOPENED FEB. 24 BUT SCHEDULES STILL CONFUSED).

2. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. MEPD TRANSMIT ITALCONSULT ADVISE REFTTEL EXPEDITIOUSLY TO TWO FIRMS CITED AND TO TRAC-WORK, INC., ENNIS, TEXAS; L. ROBERT KIMBALL CONSULTING ENGINEERS, CAMPBELL, PA. (EARL IDERER OR JIM MORGAN), ONLY OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS SUBMITTING, TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE. TRANSMIT RESULTS ROME.

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B. MEPD CONTACT STANLEY GLYNN, TAMS NEW YORK, TO DETERMINE

TAMS INTENTIONS THIS PROJECT.

COMMENT: CONSULTANTS BETTER SOURCE INFORMATION THIS PROJECT THAN NRC. ROME SHOULD CULTIVATE ITALCONSULT AND MEPD SHOULD SUPPLY MATERIAL FOR DIALOGUE. PROJECT BACKGROUND FOR ROME: GOVERNMENT-OWNED NRC EMBARKING ON AMBITIOUS PROJECT MODERNIZE (LARGELY TO REBUILD) ENTIRE 2300-MILE NIGERIAN RAIL SYSTEM WHILE CONVERTING IT TO STANDARD GAUGE. ALSO INTENDS BUILD NEW 100-MILE BRANCH FROM OTURKPO TO AJEOKUTA ON NIGER RIVER TO SERVE BLAST FURNACE STEEL COMPLEX WHICH SOVIETS ENGAGED TO DEVELOP AT AJEOKUTA. NEW LINE HAS HIGHEST NRC PRIORITY AND PROBABLY IS 200-KM SEGMENT MENTIONED PARA ONE YOURTEL. ENTIRE NRC PROJECT DIVIDED INTO EIGHT SEGMENTS, OF WHICH NEW LINE IS ONE. NRC HAS ATTEMPTED HANDLE PROJECT LARGELY ON OWN, WITH CONFUSING RESULTS, BUT IT APPEARS ITALCONSULT HAS BEEN SILENT CONSULTANT RECENTLY.

EASUM

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Message Attributes

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